8-21-1880

Joseph Cook on Socialism.

John Muir

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/jmb

Recommended Citation
https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/jmb/145

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the John Muir Papers at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Muir: A Reading Bibliography by Kimes by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact mgibney@pacific.edu.
NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Joseph Cook on Socialism.

Joseph Cook's book, called "Socialism, with Prefaces on Current Events," is made up of ten of his celebrated "Boston Monday Lectures." The leading subjects discussed in the volume are: "The perils of the United States from Communist and Socialistic disease;" "Self-Cook for the poor as opposed to State-culp;" "Co-operative industry, and crowded city populations;" "Sunday laws;" "Temperance;" "High Schools;" "Woman's right to the ballot in regard to temperance and education;" "The Chinese;" "Joseph Cook;" "Tramps," etc. The book is crowded with good, wholesome, old-fashioned truths, vigorously told, with an air of novel scientific discovery, and mixed with a good deal of grotesque absurdity and lame reasoning. Even while saying his best things with admirable force, he too often makes one think of a braggart, not quite sober, stumping, and squawking, and calling "come on," instead of the plodding laborer in the world's work humbly doing the best he can, conscious of the thousand impenetrable mysteries that confront poor, struggling humanity, and in the midst of which the wisest feel compelled to grope. In the discussion of the most perplexing subjects, this teacher is always confident of the completeness of the range of his vision, and of the value of his plans, far more confident than Christ was while contemplating the ills of humanity. He delights in the relations of science and religion, nevertheless he seems singularly free from the domination of the scientific spirit. Striding on with the air of a very giant towards the heart of his theme, he at first makes one's eyes sparkle with the hope that now at length the man has arisen who will bring light into the darkest corner of the social and religious corners, grade a way from the slums and thinly commonwealths of earth to the celestial country, and make the going easy. But somehow he fails just in the midst of which the wisest among us feel, the most active men in the world, the tramps will have no opportunity to run from the border of one town and obtain freedom in another. You will sweep up all the vagabonds in Massachusetts in one attack." After the jolly hunt was over they were to be taught morals, religion and philosophy, and thus have all of the sad mud of their natures, whether inherited or acquired, transmitted to divine gold. Hoyt's good Saxon sentences against the difficulties of his theme like sea breakers against a bluff, but the difficulties, like the bluff, continue to loom up out of the spray with seeming touch after the storm. Nevertheless, nearly everything he says makes on the side of the right, and he does goad work in repealing in vigorous, telling language those lessons which require constant repetition. We think the book well worth reading, if not for instruction, at least for suggestions concerning the great questions of the wisest men. We think that on undertaking, paginated to the volume is from the stern old prophet Carlyle: "Cease to brag to me of America and its model institutions and constitutions. America, too, will have to sit in the different towns, its sinews and all but treak its heart as the rest of us have had to do in the thousand-fold, wrestle with the Pythons and mud-demons before it can become a habitation for the gods. America's battle is yet to fight. New spiritual Pythons, plenty of them; enormous Mergatherians, as ugly as ever were born of mud, doomed and hideous out of the twilight future on America; and she will have her own agony and her own victory, but on other terms than she is yet quite aware of." For sale at Billings, Harbourne & Co, San Francisco.

SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES; give me developed thoughtfulness in the masses, and I have little fear of the irritation of Socialism and Communism." It is just this developed thoughtfulness in the masses that cannot be given now, or for a long time to come, however close together the schools and churches may be planted. A portion of his lecture on tramps suggests Boabdil's method of defeating an army. "What shall be done with our tramps? I would place them in work-houses. But shall the roving idlers and buggers and thieves be caught? I should like to have a regulation that there be appointed, but not publicly proclaimed, a day each summer for hunting tramps. You cannot expect the farmer to leave his work to get the tramps arrested; but if you will have a secret understanding among the constables of the States, the whole officer will, at the end of July, the power of all the officers shall be put forth at once to catch these vagabonds, and if the constables let into the secret some of the most active men in the whole towns, the tramps will have no opportunity to run from the border of one town and obtain freedom in another. You will sweep up all the vagabonds in Massachusetts in one attack." After the jolly hunt was over they were to be taught morals, religion and philosophy, and thus have all of the sad mud of their natures, whether inherited or acquired, transmitted to divine gold. Hoyt's good Saxon sentences against the difficulties of his theme like sea breakers against a bluff, but the difficulties, like the bluff, continue to loom up out of the spray with seeming touch after the storm. Nevertheless, nearly everything he says makes on the side of the right, and he does goad work in repealing in vigorous, telling language those lessons which require constant repetition. We think the book well worth reading, if not for instruction, at least for suggestions concerning the great questions of the wisest men. We think that on undertaking, paginated to the volume is from the stern old prophet Carlyle: "Cease to brag to me of America and its model institutions and constitutions. America, too, will have to sit in the different towns, its sinews and all but treak its heart as the rest of us have had to do in the thousand-fold, wrestle with the Pythons and mud-demons before it can become a habitation for the gods. America's battle is yet to fight. New spiritual Pythons, plenty of them; enormous Mergatherians, as ugly as ever were born of mud, doomed and hideous out of the twilight future on America; and she will have her own agony and her own victory, but on other terms than she is yet quite aware of." For sale at Billings, Harbourne & Co, San Francisco.